



Left to right: 1) What the well dressed and aristocratic Dalmatians wear. 2) The back of the Dalmatian costume of the same type as portrayed on cover page.

3) A Croatian costume from a different district. 4) A well dressed Croat couple. Please note the laced trouser of the man. These drawings came from Yugoslavia.

Jugoslav - Croat Costumes

By VYTAUTAS F. BELIAJUS

To describe Yugoslav costumes would require a tome of many pages. There are over twenty distinct types, ranging from definitely Oriental to the Alpine variety. Yugoslavia is a checkerboard type of a country composed of many Slavic varieties of peoples, professing different religions, speaking various dialects and owning distinct lores. Even their histories differ and all these factors influence their life and leave their mark in various manifestations. Austrian influence can be seen among the Slovenes, Magyar among the Slavones and other Croatians, Venetian among some of the Dalmatians, Turkish among the Bosnians and some Serbs, etc. In this limited space, therefore, we can hardly describe a score of costumes. We hope to do three different instalments of Yugoslav costumes; Croatian, Serbian and Slovene, and to carry many pictures, without description, of the costumes of other regions as well. The type we will dwell on in this section will be of the Northern Croatian style, which, altho rich in color, is simpler in design. This costume seems to be in vogue among the Hrvats (Croats) in the United States. The Croats, too, have a dozen types of regional garb.

It is rather easy to describe the selected costume. It is made of white linen. All one needs is a good knowledge of the art of embroidery, and there is no limit to the amount of embroidery. One can devote her days bedecking that white field until it becomes a veritable flower garden of brilliant reds, greens and a few other colors. The skirt is full, gathered at the waist and ankle long.

The apron is also of white material and as long as the skirt. It is full and covers the entire front and sides. The embroidery on the apron may be of a wider coverage than on the skirt and bordering up the sides. Note apron



Madeline in a Croat costume described in this article. (The March issue will carry Yugoslav costumes for Serbia and Bosnia)



V. F. Beliajus and Wenetta Grybas-Childs in Croat garb.

worn by Wenetta Grybas-Childs.

The blouse can either be plain, as worn by Madeline Siricevich, or with heavy embroidery around the yoke and sleeves, or as worn by Wenetta. Either a wide embroidered band (see Wenetta's picture) or a narrow tying type band (see Madeline's picture), keeps the blouse in place.

The caps are round and brimless, sort a half of a fez, which was the original influence on this type of headgear. The sides of this particular "fez" are usually embroidered in black and a bunch of fringe hangs from the side. The crown is red and often designed with embroidery. Many wear headkerchiefs over these. Attached with jewelry, the kerchiefs, corners hang loosely.

The stockings are another piece of artistic creation in embroidery and weaving. Only the sole is knitted and the leggin part, which looks like a high boot, is woven and embroidered, often with gold threads.

The shoes are of leather. They resemble somewhat the Mexican Guarache but have a pointed toe. Many wear a Slipper of soft red leather soles and embroidered (knitted) tops. See above picture of Vyts.

The man's costume can be just as elaborate in a different manner. He can wear lace on his trousers and shirts, embroidery or just plain material. There are many types of trousers for the Croatian man. Blue and an almost exact copy of the Mexican Charro trousers, or various kinds of whites: White trousers reaching the floor, of which each leg is full almost of skirt dimensions; Plain white trousers laced at the bottom or tied to the leg



A group of Croatians who appeared at the St. Paul, Minn., Festival of Nations.



Young Hrvats all "duked up"

where the lace begins. White trousers of the above fullness but reaching only the knees. High black boots are worn with them. Or, they could be like our American "ducks" trousers with high boots over or if worn with those "Opanke" (guaraches), ribbons lace in criss-cross the bottom of the trousers.

The man's Opanke (shoes) has a very exaggerated